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PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, December 28, 2005 5 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence Wednesday, December 28, 2005
Nature of Event: Agencies Partner to Battle Teen Alcohol Use
Location of Call: Placer County
Released by: Dena Erwin (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Reducing teen alcohol use is the focus of a new partnership between Placer County law enforcement agencies and Health and Human Services.

The newly formed partnership was kicked off Wednesday at a gathering of agencies, chaired by Dr. Richard Burton, director of the county's Health and Human Services, who made available \$10,000 to combat underage drinking.

From now until early February, officers across Placer County will be conducting various operations to combat a growing problem – kids obtaining and abusing alcohol. According to Dr. Burton, a 2004 survey of Placer County high school students showed that 50 percent use alcohol and three out of every four reported that obtaining alcohol is easy or very easy. And one of the easiest places to access alcohol, they said, is in their own homes.

"We have educated the public to lock up guns, but parents should also consider locking up their alcohol," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "If we can reduce the availability of alcohol, we can reduce the staggering number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths."

While teens may consider drinking a rite of passage, they should consider one of the associated dangers: 80 percent of sexual assaults against women involve alcohol. And a major consequence if a minor is cited for any alcohol- or drug-related offense, whether a vehicle is involved or not, is a mandatory loss of driving privileges.

Other operations being conducted throughout Placer County include targeting retailers who may sell alcohol to minors and adults who buy alcohol for teens. Representatives from the Placer County Sheriff's Department and Roseville and Rocklin police departments are working together to conduct various operations, including the use of decoys and shoulder-tap buys. It is a misdemeanor to purchase alcohol for someone under the age of 21.

This press release is available on the Placer County Sheriff's website at [Http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff](http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff)